RMF – Are You Ready to Transition?
San Antonio, TX
Diligent Consulting, Inc. has been providing Certification and Accreditation (C&A) services for Headquarters Air, Education and Training Command's (AETC) A6 organization since 2012. Our role in this effort is to perform all facets of C&A, to include the Defense Information Assurance Certification and Accreditation Process (DIACAP) tasks and deliverable requirements in order to help organizations achieve an Authority To Operate (ATO) on the Air Force Network (AFNET).

In 2015, the Air Force acted upon the 2014 direction to begin using the National Institute of Standards and Technology Risk Management Framework (RMF) instead of the no longer approved DIACAP process. While similar in concept and goals, each method uses significantly different analyses and documents and the Air Force had been challenged to create a migration path and detailed instructions for applying the required RMF methodology.

Diligent's expertise in the C&A environment was awarded the first ever RMF task order to complete Assessment & Authorization (A&A) package under the new construct on a high profile system within AETC. Our customer has lauded our team for setting the benchmark as trailblazers executing the nuances of RMF and looks forward to continued success. Diligent Director of Cyber Security, Robert Zapata stated that, "The decision to transition to the RMF will play a significant role in standardizing cybersecurity requirements across the entire Air Force and perhaps all of the DoD." Mr. Zapata also said that, "Transitioning from DIACAP to an RMF accreditation is an involved process and will require substantial understanding of the systems, mission requirements, and challenges."

Beyond required compliance, the benefits of the RMF standard are substantial. And when properly applied, RMF provides system flexibility, increased risk awareness, and more cost effective management of cybersecurity. It is our goal at Diligent to continue to work with the Air Force and the DoD to transition appropriately to the new RMF process for securing and documenting its critical and essential mission systems so that each system receives its required Authority To Operate (ATO).